

Poor quality of food offered during PM's Travel

3123. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether every time the Prime Minister goes abroad, Air India provides a special aircraft and then bills the Government of India for flight;

(b) if so, whether on the flight from Delhi to Mauritius, in March this year, Prime Minister could not eat his break fast because of leathery 'appams' serviced;

(c) whether lunch and dinner was not taken by the PM due to the low standard of food;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the food served in the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The menu composition is forwarded to the office of the VVIP concerned much in advance of the flight. In this particular case, the menu compositions were forwarded to the PMO approximately 10 days in advance of the flight. Since no comments or suggestions were received or any changes or alterations to these menu compositions made, it was assumed that they were in order and were accordingly uplifted for this flight. No problems or any negative feed back on food was received from passengers. Many passengers had a second helping of "appams" on the Delhi/Mauritius sector for breakfast since they apparently appreciated this preparation.

(c) to (d) Hon'ble Prime Minister's party had informed the crew on the outbound sector i.e. Delhi/Mauritius itself that Hon'ble Prime Minister would not be partaking of dinner on the return journey. The Hon'ble Prime Minister prefers to have an early dinner and he would partake of dinner at the State banquet hosted by the Governor General of Mauritius prior to flight departure. In fact, in the last flight of the Hon'ble Prime Minister between 24th and 30th June to Rome and Lisbon, the Prime Minister has greatly appreciated the

inflight service. He commented that “The crew was efficient and arrangements were in keeping with Air India’s Moscot—The Maharaja”.

Funds for revitalisation of AI and IA

3124. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposal to revitalise Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether fleet augmentation and product upgradation would be given priority under the revitalisation process;

(c) if so, the fund earmarked for implementing the above programme; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has already decided to partially disinvest its stake in both the Airlines. The disinvestment of AI and IA is expected to result in improved air services, efficiency and financial performance as also higher financial returns to Government. It is premature to say about funds induction at this stage.

Former CMD’s recommendation on replacement of old Aircrafts in IA

3125. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former CMD of the Indian Airlines Mr. Anil Baijal had recommended for immediate replacement of old aircrafts in the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The former Chairman and Managing Director